

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03532 01 OF 02 041707Z
ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8282

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 408

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN JOSE 3532

USIA ILA FOR GEORGE MILLER; USUN FOR LAWRENCE GARUFI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDERW), PFOR CS

SUBJ: QUESTIONS/ANSWERS FOR AMB YOUNG'S PRESS CONFERENCE

THE FOLLOWING IS LIST OF POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND SOME SUGGESTED
ANSWERS (ON BILATERAL MATTERS ONLY) FOR AMB YOUNG'S AUG 9 AIRPORT
PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

1. US - COSTA RICA RELATIONS

A. VESCO

1. Q. DO YOU BRING ANY NEW INFORMATION OR ANY INSTRUCTIONS
REGARDING THE VESCO CASE?

A. I REALLY HAVE NOTHING NEW TO SAY ABOUT VESCO. THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN REVIEWING THE MATTER OF A VESCO
EXTRADITION, AND CONTINUES TO DO SO. ALSO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE US PROCEED WITH AN EXTRADITION REQUEST.
AS YOU KNOW, THE FINAL DECISION ON EXTRADITION WILL BE MADE BY
THE APPROPRIATE LEGAL AUTHORITIES, THAT IS, THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE. THAT IS WHERE THE CASE IS.

2. Q. DO YOU THINK THAT VESCO WILL LEAVE COSTA RICA AS
PRESIDENT ODUBER HAS SAID HE WILL?

A. IN THE US THE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MR VESCO'S DEPARTURE FROM COSTA
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RICA HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED WITH GREAT INTEREST. OUR
DESIRE CONTINUES TO BE, SIMPLY, THAT US JUSTICE BE SERVED IN
THIS MATTER, AND THAT MR VESCO ANSWER THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM
IN US COURTS.

3. Q. WHAT ABOUT THE SCANDAL HERE THAT VESCO CONTRIBUTED TO THE
PAST PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN?

A. I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT - IT IS A MATTER OF INTERNAL

COSTA RICAN POLITICS.

B,

COSTA RICA'S HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE

1. Q. PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS OAS SPEECH SAID THAT THE US WOULD "STAND BESIDE" COUNTRIES THAT RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS. COSTA RICA HAS AN EXEMPLARY RECORD IN HUMAN RIGHTS. WHAT WILL THE US DO FOR COSTA RICA IN LIGHT OF THIS POLICY?

A. I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT THE US AND COSTA RICA STAND BESIDE EACH OTHER IN A FIRMLY SHARED COMMON GOAL TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS HEMISPHERE AND WORLD WIDE. US-COSTA RICAN RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT. WE COOPERATE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO; THAT IS HOW GOOD FRIENDS CONDUCT THEIR RELATIONS.

C. ECONOMIC ISSUES

1. Q. WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE US INCREASING ITS "QUOTA" FOR COSTA RICAN MEAT THIS YEAR?

A. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY CHANGE CONTEMPLATED IN THE US MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, AS MRS CARTER STATED DURING HER VISIT HERE, THE WHOLE QUESTION OF MARKET QUOTAS IS BEING GIVEN COMPREHENSIVE STUDY IN THE US. ALSO, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT COSTA RICA HAS BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP OTHER MARKETS FOR VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE COSTA RICAN BEEF AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT THIS YEAR.

2. Q. WHAT ABOUT NEXT YEAR?

A. IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS THE PROSPECTS FOR NEXT YEAR. THE US
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WILL BE CONSIDERING A MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM FOR NEXT YEAR TOWARD THE END OF THIS YEAR.

3. Q. WILL THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION IMPOSE ADDITIONAL CONTROLS ON MEAT IMPORTS INTO THE US?

A. THE ITC IS HOLDING HEARINGS ABOUT MEAT IMPORTS AT THE REQUEST OF THE US CATTLE INDUSTRY. THE COMMISSION CANNOT IMPOSE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. IT CAN ONLY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT WILL CONSIDER NOT ONLY THE FINDINGS OF THE ITC BUT ALSO OUR MUTUAL TRADE INTERESTS WITH FRIENDLY NATIONS BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER ANY ACTION IS NEEDED WITH RESPECT TO MEAT IMPORTS.

2. THE VISIT

1. Q. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMMENT ON YOUR DISCUSSION YESTERDAY WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER AND FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO?

2. YOUR TRIP ITINERARY IS PRIMARILY THE ISLAND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, PLUS MEXICO, COSTA RICA, AND VENEZUELA. WERE THESE COUNTRIES CHOSEN FOR ANY PARTICULAR REASON.

3. Q. WILL COSTA RICA DERIVE ANY SPECIFIC BENEFITS FROM YOUR VISIT, SUCH AS AN INCREASE IN MEAT EXPORTS TO THE US?

4. Q. IS THE US GOING TO BACK ITS "NEW" ATTENTION TO THE CARIBBEAN--LATIN AMERICAN REGION, WHICH YOUR VISIT SEEMS TO REPRESENT,

WITH CONCRETE STEPS TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC RELATIONS?

3. HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Q. TWELVE YEARS AGO COSTA RICA PROPOSED THAT THE UN CREATE AN OFFICE OF A UN HIGH COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STATED THAT THE US ENDORSES THIS PROPOSAL. WHAT CONCRETE ACTION WILL THE US TAKE IN THE FORTHCOMING UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN REGARD TO THIS PROPOSAL?

2. Q. IS THE US GOING TO GO BEYOND VERBAL PRAISE FOR THOSE COUNTRIES SUCH AS COSTA RICA WHICH HAVE AN EXCELLENT HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, BY GRANTING TRADE CONCESSIONS OR INCREASING AID?

3. Q. HOW CAN THE US TALK SO MUCH OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHEN BLACKS AND OTHER MINORITIES ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN THE US?

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4. Q. CRITICS OF CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HAVE CHARGED THAT THE US HAS ALIENATED SOME TRADITIONAL ALLIES IN LATIN AMERICA. DOES THE US PLAN TO TAKE FURTHER MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS REGION?

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN JOSE 3532

USIA ILA FOR GEORGE MILLER; USUN FOR LAWRENCE GARUFI

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4. PANAMA CANAL

1. Q. WHAT IS THE US POSITION AND WHAT DOES THE US WISH TO ACHIEVE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PANAMA CANAL QUESTION?
2. Q. DO YOU EXPECT THAT A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY WILL BE SIGNED THIS YEAR? IF SO, WILL THE US SENATE RATIFY IT?
3. Q. IS THE US CONTEMPLATING THE BUILDING OF A SEA LEVEL CANAL, AS PRESIDENT CARTER SUGGESTED IN A SPEECH IN YAZOO, MISSISSIPPI, LAST MONTH?

5. CUBA

1. Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR FULL RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND CUBA?
 2. Q. WILL THE US DEMAND THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CUBA AS A CONDITION FOR LIFTING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS OR RESUMING RELATIONS?
 3. Q. YOU HAVE BEEN QUOTED IN THE PAST AS CONDONING THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS IN ANGOLA. CUBAN TROOPS ARE APPARENTLY ACTIVE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD AT THIS MOMENT, AS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN ETHIOPIA.
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DON'T YOU CONSIDER THIS A THREAT TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS?

4. Q. WON'T THE OPENING OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND CUBA CAUSE A DROP IN THE QUOTA OF SUGAR COSTA RICA AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES?

6. BELIZE

1. Q. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THE US POSITION WITH REGARD TO BELIZE?

7. PERSONAL

1. Q. YOU HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MOST CONTOVERSIAL FIGURES IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. OCCASIONALLY YOUR COMMENTS HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED IN AND OUTSIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT. HOW CAN PEOPLE BE SURE THAT YOUR REMARKS REALLY SIGNIFY US POLICY?
 2. Q. WHAT ARE YOUR WORKING RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE LIKE? DO YOU FIND YOURSELF IN DISAGREEMENT WITH OTHER OFFICIALS IN THE GOVERNMENT?
 3. Q. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON NEW HAMPSHIRE GOVERNOR THOMPSON' RECENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER, IN WHICH HE CHARGED YOU ARE REALLY REPRESENTING IN THE UN SOCIALIST AND MARXISTS NATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD?
- WEISSMAN

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